



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Great Lakes & Ohio River Division

Water Quality

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has a number of authorities for assisting States, local governments, and Native American Indian tribes in the preservation, restoration, and enhancement of water quality in area waterways. These programs provide cost-shared support, not grants. This fact sheet will discuss authorities which may be applicable to lakes, streams and rivers within the Ohio River basin. These programs were authorized under the various Water Resources Development Acts (WRDA).

Planning Assistance to States

Authorization: Section 22 of WRDA 1974, as amended.

Program Goals: Support States and tribes in their comprehensive planning for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land resources. Section 22 can also be used in watershed and ecosystem planning.

Application: This authority might be used for evaluating options for enhancing water quality such as non-point pollution prevention, flow augmentation, algae control, and reservoir management. Corps capabilities in water quality modeling, monitoring and analysis, and GIS mapping could be utilized.

Cost Sharing: 50% Federal, 50% State, municipality or tribe.

Budgetary: Annual funding not to exceed \$10,000,000 Corps-wide. The FY 1999 appropriation for this program is \$5,500,000.

Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration

Authorization: Section 206 of WRDA 1996.

Program Goals: A new, general authority to carry out aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection projects. Sites are not limited to existing Corps projects.

Application: A number of potential projects are under study. These include sediment removal at lakes, restoration of wetlands by water management structures, and modification of navigation features to enhance fish spawning.

Cost Sharing: 65% Federal, 35% Non-Federal; operation and maintenance costs are Non-Federal.

Budgetary: Annual funding not to exceed \$25,000,000 Corps-wide. The FY 1999 appropriation for this program is \$11,200,000.

Restoration of Environmental Quality

Authorization: Section 1135 of WRDA 1986, as amended.

Program Goals: Modify existing Corps project structures and/or operations to restore environmental quality. This authority was recently amended to include restoration project areas that are outside Corps project lands, but were impacted by the project.

Application: This authority has been utilized to modify Corps reservoirs to enhance water quality in tailwaters. It could also be used for implementing systems for reservoir destratification or reaeration as well as habitat protection and restoration.

Cost Sharing: 75% Federal, 25% Non-Federal; operation and maintenance costs are Non-Federal.

Budgetary: Annual funding not to exceed \$25,000,000 Corps-wide. The FY 1999 appropriation for this program is \$21,175,000.

Environmental Dredging

Authorization: Section 312 of WRDA 1990, as amended.

Program Goals: To provide for the removal of contaminated sediments outside the boundaries of Federal navigation channels as part of the operation and maintenance on a navigation project. Actions to be taken in consultation with the USEPA.

Cost Sharing: 65% Federal, 35% Non-Federal for dredging and disposal costs.

Budgetary: Annual funding not to exceed \$20,000,000 Corps-wide. The FY 1998 appropriation includes \$1,000,000 for environmental dredging at the Mahoning River.

Expedited Reconnaissance Study

Authorization: Section 905(b) of WRDA 1986.

Program Goals: To conduct a Reconnaissance Study of a wide range of potential water resources projects at an accelerated schedule. Potential projects may include navigation, flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, shoreline or streambank protection, and water quality enhancement.

Application: Recon studies have been prepared for ecosystem restoration in the Turtle Creek Watershed, PA and port/industrial development with recreational/environmental restoration on the Ohio River, OH.

Cost Sharing: Expedited Reconnaissance Studies are conducted at full-Federal cost, not to exceed \$100,000.

Budgetary: The FY 1999 appropriation for this program directed 20 studies in the Great Lakes & Ohio River Division, all as Congressional Adds.

Monitoring Partnerships

Corps districts routinely perform water quality monitoring at rivers and reservoirs in relation to the operation of navigation and flood control structures. Agencies and organizations who also monitor water quality are encouraged to consider partnering with the Corps'. Homeowner associations, civic and environmental groups are encouraged to consider volunteer support to Corps water quality monitoring programs. Volunteers can greatly increase the ability to track conditions along area waterways and enable water management operations to maintain the highest possible water quality.

Water Quality Modeling

The Corps has developed water quality models for the Ohio River and many of its tributaries to predict water quality conditions at Corps structures and to help operate these structures to maintain water quality suitable for a variety of uses. The Corps has worked with States to apply these models to watershed management issues, including non-point source pollution and TMDL development.

Reimbursable Support

In addition to the cost-shared authorities described above, the full range of Corps capabilities in water quality monitoring and modeling, watershed planning, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), design and construction of environmental restoration projects is available to States, municipal and tribal agencies on a reimbursable basis.

For More Information

In order to obtain more information about the application of any of these programs in the Ohio River basin, check out our web site or contact:

Jan Miller
Great Lakes & Ohio River Division
(312) 353-6354
jan.a.miller@usace.army.mil

<http://www.usace.army.mil/lrd/wq.htm>